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Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields: integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Letter dated 7 October 2014 from the Chargée d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Gabon to the United Nations and the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking continue to grow at an alarming rate. Many countries, above all in Africa, are increasingly suffering from their adverse impacts, which affect all three pillars of the United Nations: human rights, peace and security, and development.

It is against this background that Germany and Gabon have jointly organized another high-level event on the theme "Poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking: towards joint action by the international community". The event was held on 26 September 2014, in the margins of the general debate of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly. It was hosted by the President of the Gabonese Republic, H.E. Ali Bongo Ondimba, and by the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany, H.E. Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

Heads of State and other high-level representatives of United Nations Member States, as well as senior representatives of international organizations, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, attended the event. The President of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, H.E. Sam Kutesa, and the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Jan Eliasson, delivered statements. The event was moderated by the Secretary-General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, John E. Scanlon.

The meeting produced a number of important proposals for an enhanced engagement of the United Nations and its Member States with regard to poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking. Given the global relevance of the issue, we believe that the Member States of the United Nations might be interested in the outcome of

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the meeting. Therefore, we have the pleasure to transmit to you herewith the moderator's summary (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 13 (a).

(*Signed*) Harald **Braun**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

(*Signed*) Marianne **Bibalou**
Ambassador
Chargée d'affaires a.i.

Annex to the letter dated 7 October 2014 from the Chargée d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Gabon to the United Nations and the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

High-level discussion: "Poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking: towards joint action by the international community"

A joint event of the Gabonese Republic and Federal Republic of Germany
United Nations Headquarters, New York, 26 September 2014

I. Welcome and opening remarks by co-Hosts

H.E. Ali Bongo Ondimba, President of the Gabonese Republic
H.E. Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany

II. Statements

H.E. Sam Kutesa, President of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly
H.E. Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

III. Discussion: interventions

Representatives of Member States (including Heads of State and ministers), international organizations, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations made interventions.

Moderator's Summary

Moderator, John E. Scanlon, Secretary-General of the "Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora" (CITES)

1. There was overwhelming support for Gabon and Germany bringing this matter to the margins of the General Assembly for the second time[a] and some called for a third event to be held in September 2015.

2. The change in the scale and nature of illegal wildlife trade was seen as presenting a pressing global problem that requires shared solutions at all levels, recognizing that no one country, region or agency working alone will be able to succeed. In this context, the need for an enhanced collective effort within and between States, regions and agencies was highlighted. This included working across source, transit and destination States and tackling both demand and supply.

There was wide acceptance that poaching and illegal wildlife trade is a multi-faceted issue encompassing development, economic, environmental, social

[a] High-level panel discussion "Poaching and illicit wildlife trafficking: a multidimensional crime and a growing challenge to the international community"; see: www.cites.org/eng/news/sg/2013/20130926_unga_side-event.

and security dimensions, with some noting links to the rule of law and others referencing paragraph 203 of the outcome document of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want" (General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex).

Several noted that illegal wildlife trade threatens the three pillars of the United Nations: peace and security, sustainable development and human rights.

Some stressed the need for additional financial resources.

3. A leadership role for the United Nations was widely supported, and several called for a Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue. Wide support was expressed for a dedicated, action-oriented General Assembly resolution on the issue. Someone also suggested that the Secretary-General present an annual report to the General Assembly on the contributions made by United Nations agencies. Several noted the links to the sustainable development goals and supported an inclusion of the issue in the post-2015 development agenda.

4. The fact that good progress is being made in combating illegal wildlife trade in certain areas was acknowledged, and it was noted that more needed to be done.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora was widely recognized as the principal legal instrument, and some referenced the importance of meeting their commitments under the Convention and the measures they are taking to do so.

The collaborative initiative the International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime[b] was referenced as providing coordinated enforcement support to countries and regions.

The existing contribution of the United Nations to the International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime, as well as the work of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime was recognized and particular initiatives were highlighted, including on rural livelihoods, the rule of law and the use of modern criminal investigative techniques.

Several stressed the importance of not duplicating the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and other existing efforts.

Some made positive references to the declaration of 3 March as World Wildlife Day (which was supported at the 2013 event hosted by Gabon and Germany).[c]

5. Specific examples were provided of the impacts of illegal wildlife trade, including the loss of tourism benefits, on local communities and their livelihoods, and on ecological integrity, and one participant referred to the need for people to negotiate a peace with nature.

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[b] International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime comprises the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the International Criminal Police Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Bank and the World Customs Organization.

[c] On 20 December 2013, the General Assembly, at its sixty-eighth session, decided to proclaim 3 March the day of the adoption of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora as World Wildlife Day; see www.wildlifeday.org/.

The involvement of transnational organized criminals, and in some regions heavily armed rebel militia, was noted, and many stressed the importance of good enforcement and treating wildlife crime as a serious crime. One participant referred to a possible Protocol under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

Some referred to the recent destruction of confiscated ivory and rhino horn across multiple continents, as a means of focusing attention on curbing the demand for illegally traded wildlife.

The need to focus efforts on providing support to those people who are serving in the frontlines was stressed by some, and one participant highlighted the impacts on rangers who are being injured and killed in the field and another referred to poachers tearing local communities apart.

6. Reference was made by some to the African-led Elephant Protection Initiative, and more States were encouraged to join; reference was also made to the African Elephant Conference, the London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade and the Clinton Global Initiative, and several participants highlighted the valuable role played by United Nations Goodwill Ambassadors for public outreach and future opportunities to deploy these Ambassadors.